



JON S. CORZINE  
Governor

## New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs  
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
124 Halsey Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

**By Certified and Regular Mail**



ANNE MILGRAM  
Attorney General

DAVID SZUCHMAN  
Director

March 23, 2009

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 45020  
Newark, NJ 07101  
(973) 504-6500

Pamela Schott, D.V.M.  
Animal Hospital of Sussex County, Incorporated  
169 U.S. Highway 206  
Post Office Box 67  
Augusta, New Jersey 07882

RECEIVED and FILED by the  
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
on this date of: 8-19-09

Re: **I/M/O PAMELA SCHOTT, D.V.M.**  
**Complaint Number: 06-079**

### **Offer of Settlement in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceeding**

Dear Dr. Schott:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information it received concerning your professional conduct following its consideration of a consumer complaint filed by Minnie and Michael Krupiec. The complaint alleges, among other contentions that you engaged in professional misconduct and that you failed to properly diagnose the condition of their five (5) year old Malamute/Wolf mix dog, "Meige," in or about November 2006.

Specifically, the information reviewed by the Board included, but is not limited to, the following documents:

1. A complaint filed, on or about November 30, 2006, by Minnie and Michael Krupiec, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits;
2. A correspondence, dated December 19, 2006, from Thaddeus J. Spinks, V.M.D., to the Board, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits; and
3. The medical records of "Meige" Krupiec.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probably cause exists to support a finding that you violated and/or failed to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Medical Practice Act and its accompanying regulations which are administered by the Board, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), in that you failed to keep adequate medical records, contrary to N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9.

Specifically, the Board's review into this matter revealed that Meige was presented to you on November 24, 2006 for vaccinations and a dental procedure under sedation. The Board has concluded that the veterinary medical services you provided to Meige was appropriate and hence did not warrant disciplinary action.

However, in its review of this case, the Board had the opportunity to review your submitted patient records. This review reveals that your records fail to contain important and required information relative to the veterinary services provided to the dog. Specifically, the records did not contain: 1) all pertinent symptoms and signs observed, namely, the performance of a physical examination on November 24, 2006 and the findings of such an examination; 2) the conclusions and/or diagnosis, namely, the animal's need for additional anesthesia; and 3) such other notes or information so as to provide a clear statement of the patient's condition and the veterinary evaluation and response.

Please note that N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a) provides, in the pertinent portion, that:

**A licensee shall maintain a separate patient record for each animal, heard or flock. All patient records shall accurately reflect the treatment or services rendered. Such records shall include at least the following information:**

1. The name of the facility and identification of the treating licensee. If the patient is treated by anyone other than the licensee, the licensee shall ensure that the identity of the individual providing the service is indicated in the patient record and that the provider initials and dates each entry he or she makes on the patient record;
2. The name, address and telephone number of the owner of the animal;
3. Sufficient information to clearly identify the animal, her or flock

(for example, animal name or tattoo, breed or predominant breed species);

4. A history of the presenting problem;
5. All pertinent symptoms and signs observed;
6. Tests ordered or performed and the results thereof;
7. Conclusions and/or diagnosis;
8. The treatment or treatment plan prescribed, including a specific notation of any medications or modalities prescribed;
9. Such other notes or information so as to provide a clear statement of the patient's condition and the veterinary evaluation and response;
10. The name, initials or other identifying information to indicate the identity of the licensee or agent making the entry in the patient records; and
11. Copies of any consent forms signed by the owner or the owner's representative.

[N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a); emphasis added].

The Board has concluded that your failure to include the requisite information in your patient record constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9.

At this juncture, the Board has determined that the above violation is sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding, that determination, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. Cease and desist from violations of the patient records rule, namely N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a); and
2. Pay a penalty in the amount of **\$1,500.00**, to be paid immediately upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter for your

violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and  
N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a).

If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. In such event, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate disciplinary action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted, the Board will enter conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to be so warrant, enter an Order, requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford who may be reached at (973) 648-3696.

If you elect to settle his matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General Office for the initiation of the appropriate enforcement action.

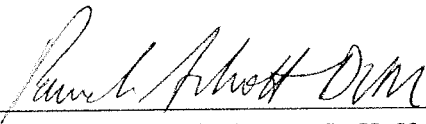
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Leslie G. Aronson*  
LESLIE G. ARONSON  
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, **PAMELA SCHOTT, D.V.M.**, hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of **\$1,500.00**, which is to be paid upon

signing of this acknowledgment, for failing to comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9. I also agree to comply with all other requirements set forth in this settlement letter.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PAMELA SCHOTT, D.V.M.,

**DATED:**

cc: Olga E. Bradford, Deputy Attorney General